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Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

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ratchet[1,noun]
ratchet[2,verb]
ratchet wheel



Main Entry: ²**ratchet**

Function: *verb*

transitive senses : to cause to move by steps or degrees --
usually used with *up* or *down* <tried to *ratchet* down the
debt>

intransitive senses : to proceed by steps or degrees

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